

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE CONCORD ROBBINS WSC  
PROJECT IN WESTERN LEON COUNTY, TEXAS

by

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Contract Report Number 99

2002

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Project Number 02-03

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## **ABSTRACT**

Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) conducted an archaeological reconnaissance and survey of seven areas proposed for new water line and the alternate site for a hydro-pneumatic plant in western Leon County, Texas in January of 2002. This work was performed under the supervision of William E. Moore and was sponsored by the Concord Robbins Water Supply Corporation (WSC) of Concord, Texas. No previously recorded sites are present in the areas examined. No prehistoric sites were found, and no historic sites within the 15 foot right-of-way or the 1.5 acre plant site were identified. It is recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to thank everyone whose cooperation made the completion of this project possible, especially Hollie H. Nowlin, environmentalist for J. F. Fontaine & Associates, Inc. and Dorin Treadway, Manager Operator for the Concord Robbins WSC. The fieldwork was conducted with the assistance of James E. Warren, Art Romine, Kent Romine, and Dorin Treadway. Jean Hughes, Assistant Head of Records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas helped with the literature search. Lilli G. Lyddon drafted the figures that appear in this report.

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## INTRODUCTION

Concord Robbins WSC plans to improve the domestic water supply to rural Leon County, Texas by installing new pipe and meters at various locations throughout the western portion of the county (Figure 1). The project area consists of seven sections of proposed new water line (8.2 miles) along state and county roads with a right-of-way of 15 feet in width and the site of a proposed hydro-pneumatic plant 1.5 acres in size (areas 1-8). Some of the line will be placed next to existing water line. These areas are discussed in *Areas Surveyed* below. In addition to the proposed water line a 1.5 acre tract is being considered as the alternate site of a hydro-pneumatic plant. Originally, this plant was planned for a different location, and now Concord Robbins wants to construct it at this new location.

Pursuant to the policy of the Farmers Home Administration, J. F. Fontaine and Associates, Inc. will attempt to place all new water line on private land just inside the fence line. On private land the depth of disturbance is estimated at 36 inches. Those segments of line on public land may be deeper, possibly 4-5 feet.

Leon County is an area that contains significant archaeological sites, both prehistoric and historic. This area has been the subject of several major cultural resources investigations such as the ongoing Jewett Mine project to the north and an earlier investigation of a water line by BVRA (Moore 1994, 2002). Based on an earlier ruling by the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division, Concord Robbins WSC elected to have BVRA examine these additional areas and submit a report to the Commission for review.

Five topographic quadrangles provide coverage of the project area. They are Donie (1965, photorevised 1982); Jewett (1965, photorevised 1982); Margie (1964, photorevised 1982); Marquez (1965, photorevised 1982), and Round Prairie (1966, photorevised 1982). The areas surveyed are depicted on these maps as figures 2-6 in this report.

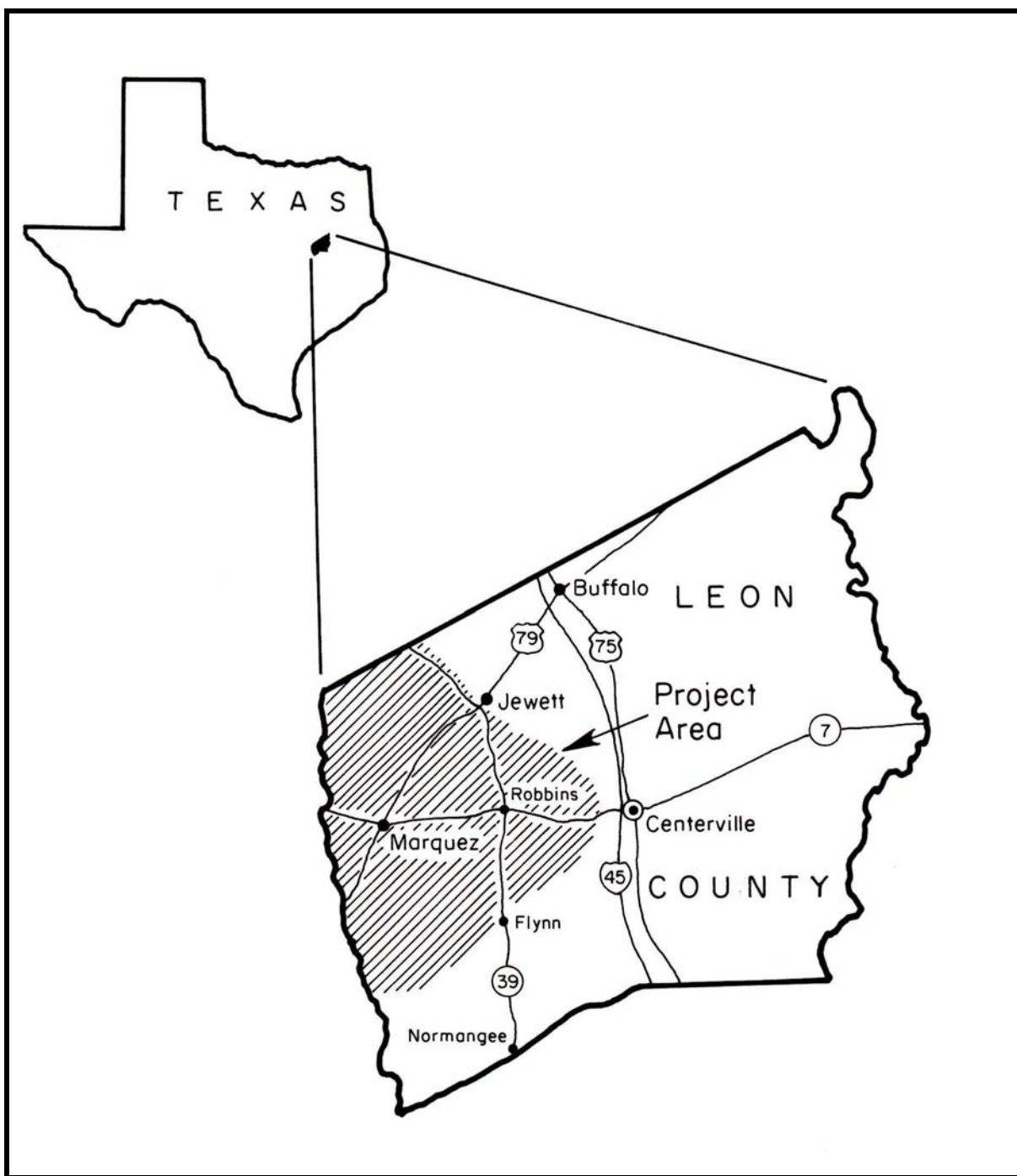


Figure 1. General Location Map

## **AREAS SURVEYED**

### **Area 1 (Jewett topographic map)**

This area consists of an overland route running in an east-west direction for a distance of one-half mile from County Road 347, beneath the railroad tracks, and terminating at County Road 345 (Figure 2). The area was not flagged at the time of this examination; however, shovel probes revealed clay at the surface in the low-lying areas. Concord Robbins WSC plans to install the water line in the floodplain away from existing hills to the south.

### **Area 2 (Jewett topographic map)**

This area consists of both sides of Farm-to-Market Road 1512 running in a north-south direction for a distance of 0.7 miles from its southern intersection with United States Highway 79 (Figure 2). No creeks cross the road in this area that is relatively flat terrain.

### **Area 3 (Jewett topographic map)**

This area consists of both sides of United States Highway 79 running in a northeast-southwest direction for a distance of 2.4 miles from the intersection of United States Highway 79 and Farm-to-Market Road 1512 to 0.7 miles south of County Road 346 (Figure 2). Two minor streams cross the highway; however, no prominent landforms above these streams were observed. Examination of eroded areas at the stream crossings revealed shallow clay.

### **Area 4 (Jewett topographic map)**

This area consists of both sides of County Road 344 running in a northeast-southwest direction for a distance of 1.6 miles from the intersection of County Road 345 to County Road 346 (Figure 2). One minor stream crosses the road; however, no high probability areas were noted. This is a relatively flat area with no prominent sandy hills.

### **Area 5 (Margie topographic map)**

This area consists of both sides of Farm-to-Market Road 977 running in an east-west direction for a distance of 2.3 miles from the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 977 and County Road 449 and terminating at the intersection of County Road 446 and Farm-to-Market Road 977. No streams cross this low probability area (Figure 3).

### **Area 6 (Donie topographic map)**

This area consists of both sides of County Road 3531 running in a northwest direction for a distance of 0.2 miles after leaving Farm-to-Marked Road 1512 (Figure 4). No streams cross this low probability area.



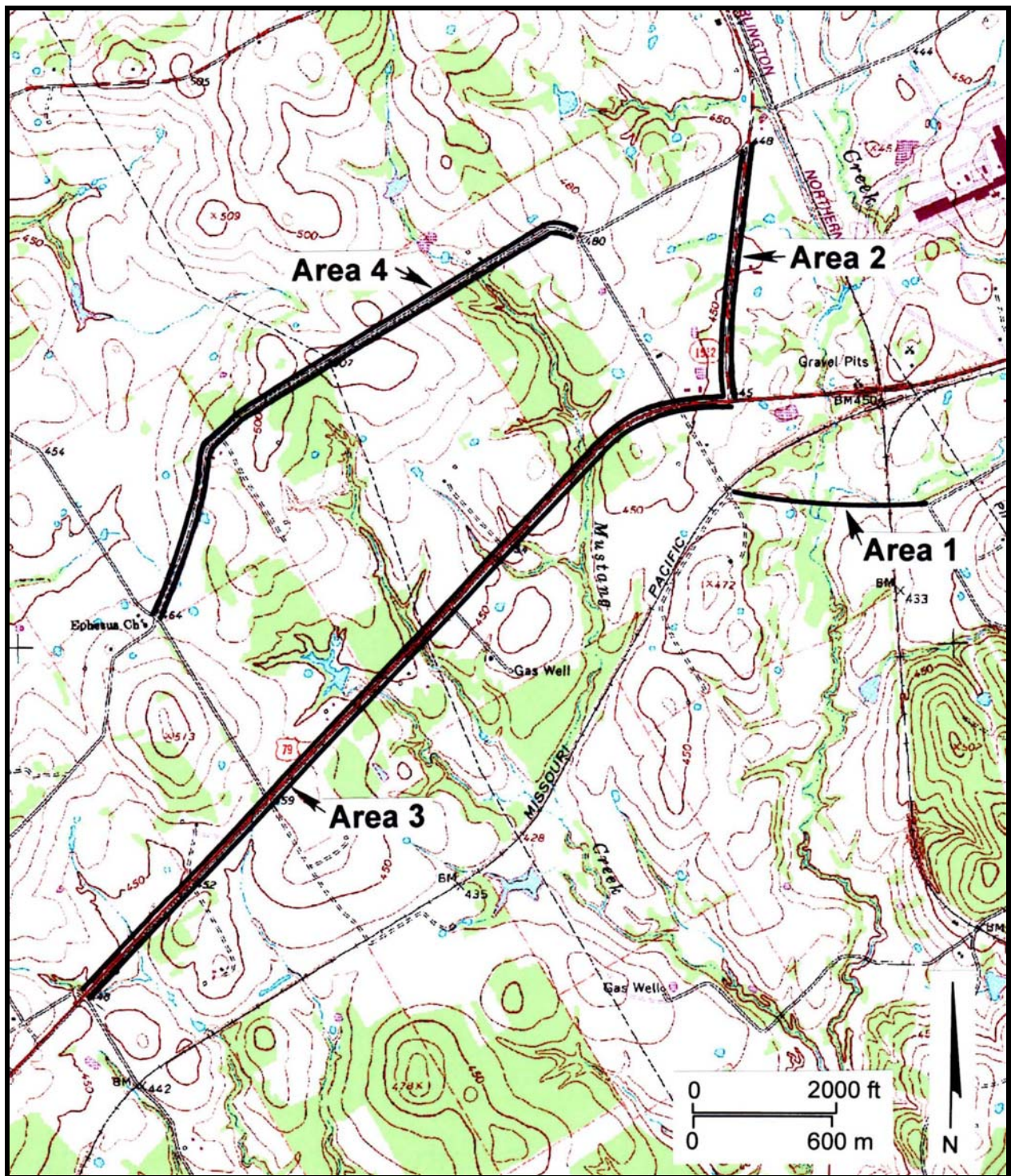


Figure 2. Areas 1-4



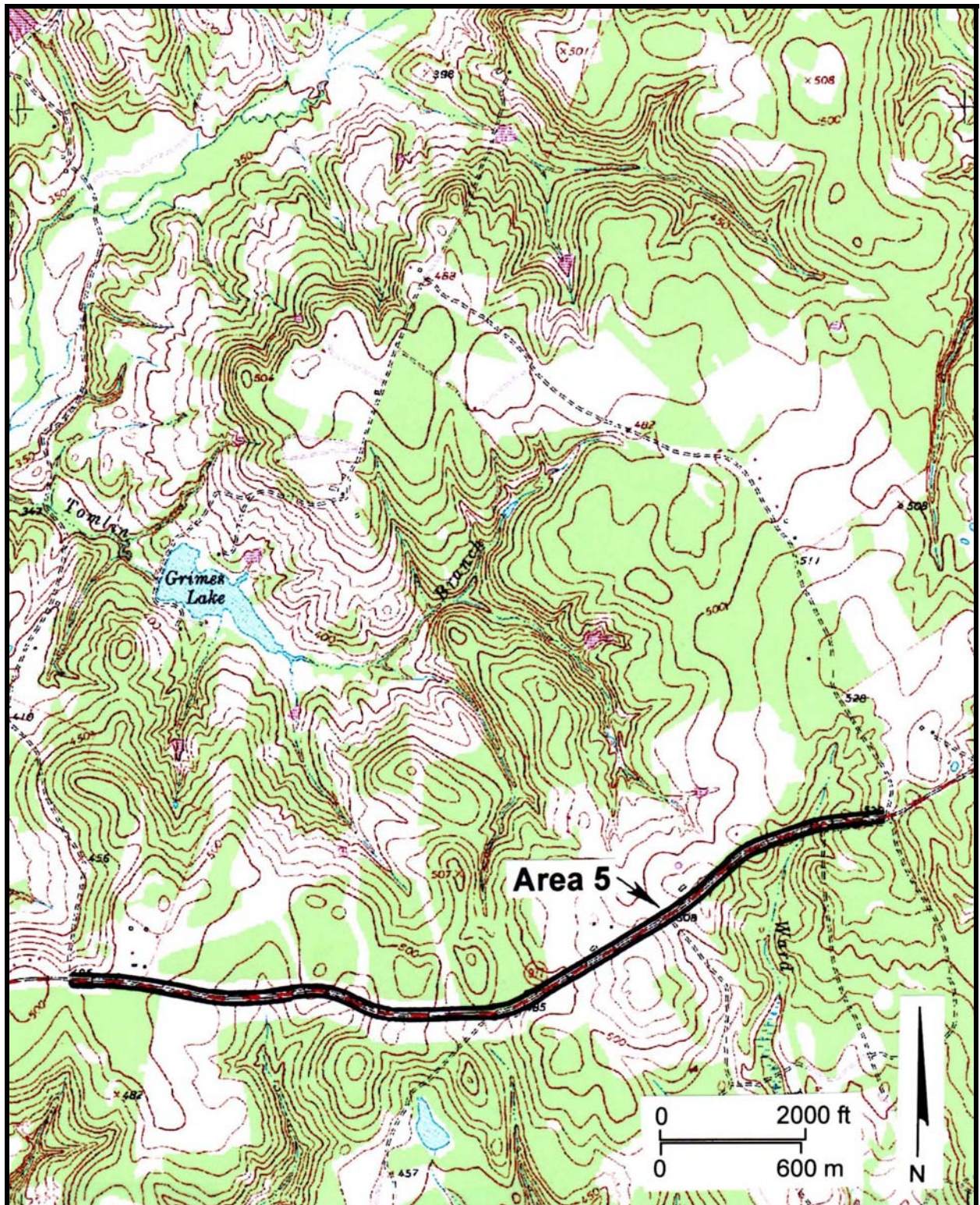


Figure 3. Area 5



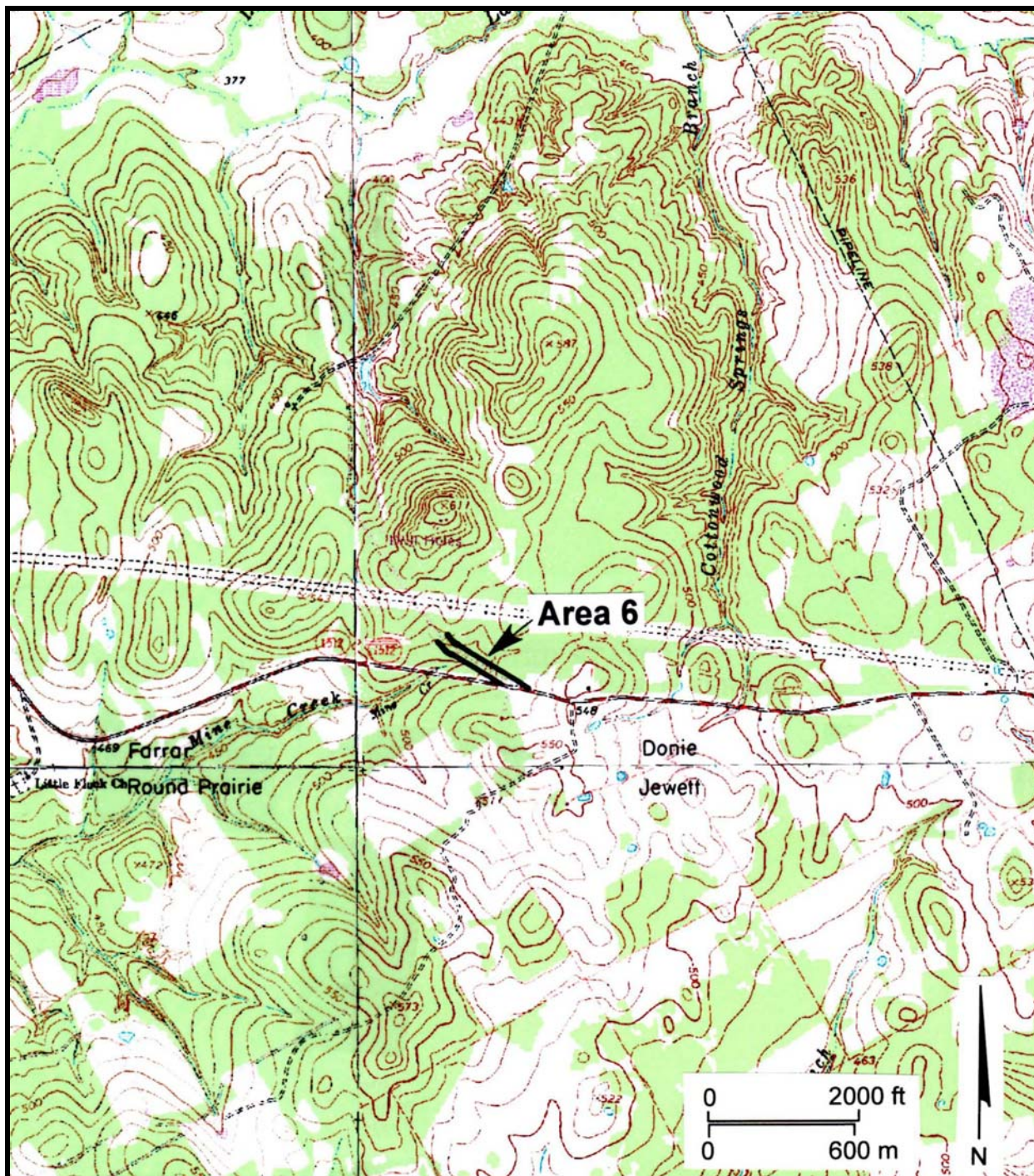


Figure 4. Area 6

#### Area 7 (Round Prairie and Marquez topographic maps)

This area consists of both sides of State Highway 7 running in an east-west direction for a distance of 0.5 miles between private road 3225 and private road 3230 (Figure 5). No streams cross this low probability area.

#### Area 8

This area consists of 1.5 acres on the north side of West County Road 344 between County Road 350 and County Road 346 (Figure 6). This is an alternate site for the proposed hydro-pneumatic plant that was originally planned to be constructed along County Road 348 approximately 800 feet south of United States Highway 79.



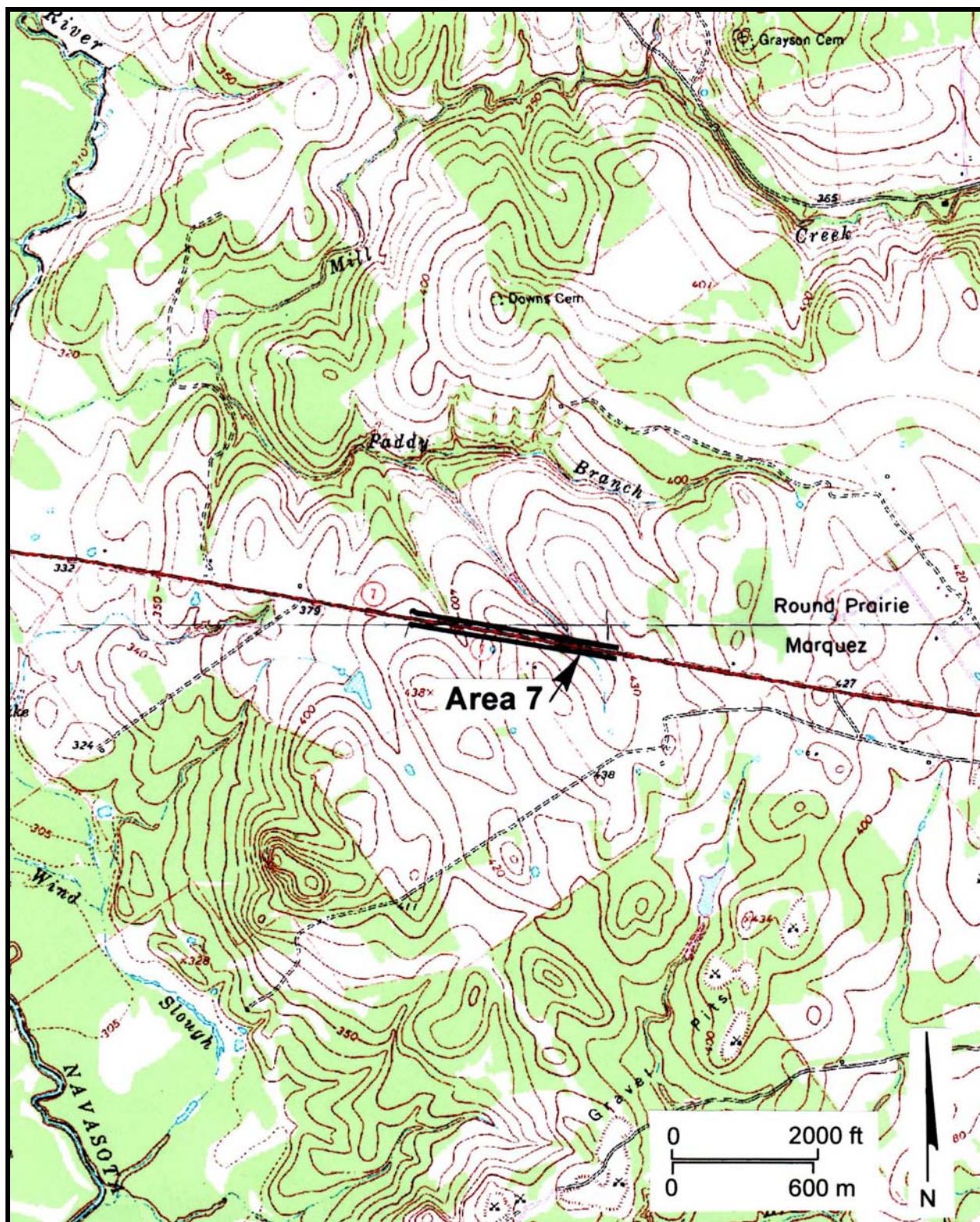


Figure 5. Area 7



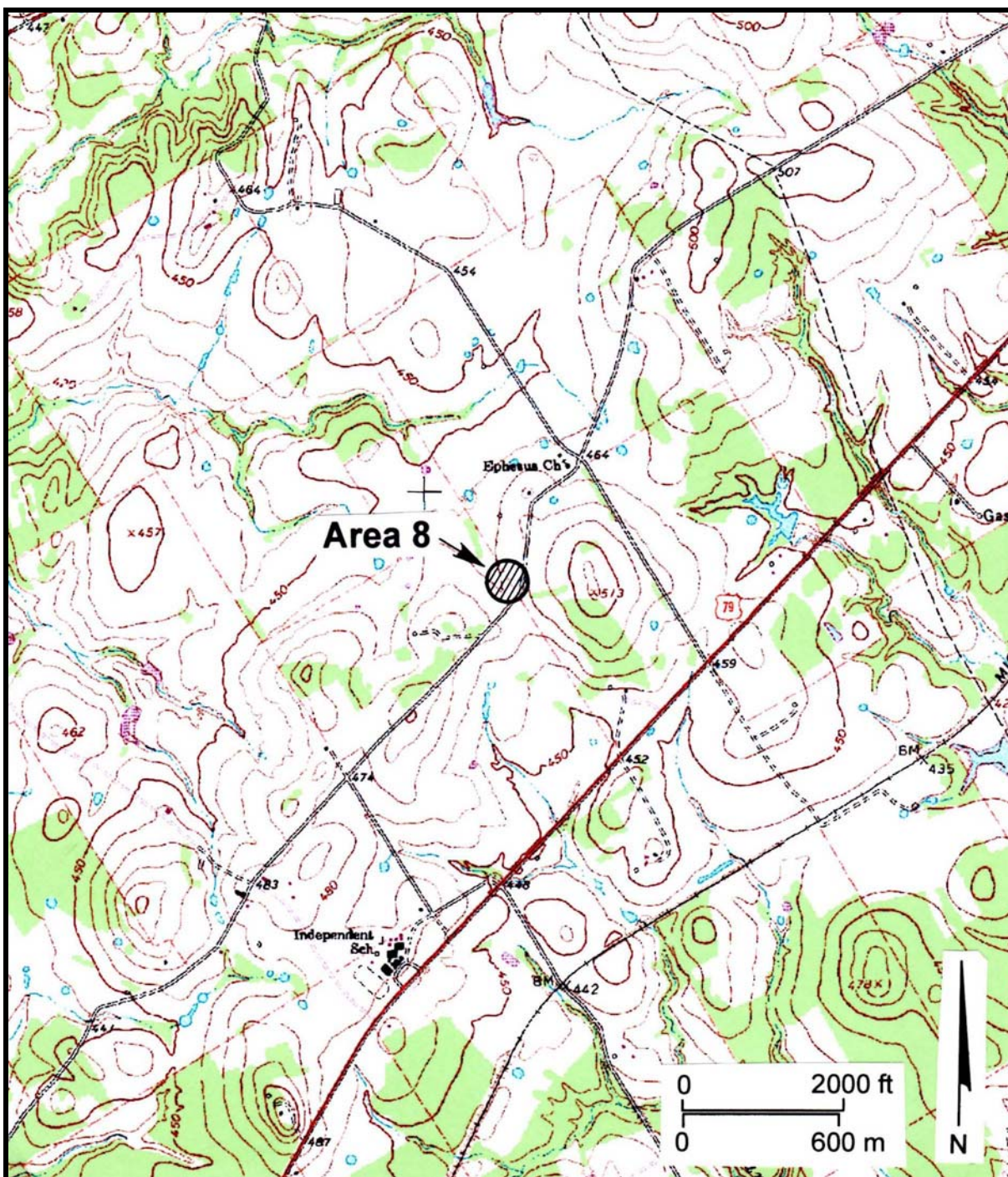


Figure 6. Area 8

## **PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

Previous archaeological work in the county is discussed in several reports by various contractors. They include work at the Upper Navasota Reservoir (now Lake Limestone) (Prewitt 1974; Prewitt and Dibble 1974), Jewett Mine (Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. 1980; Voellinger and Freeman 1980; Freeman and Voellinger 1982; Fields 1988), and Millican Reservoir (Kotter 1982).

Especially relevant to this study is the 1994 survey in which BVRA conducted an archaeological survey of 112 miles of proposed water line in west-central Leon County for the Concord Robbins WSC (Moore 1994) and the recent survey of 84.65 miles by BVRA (Moore 2002). The interested reader is referred to these reports for an in-depth analysis of former projects conducted in Leon County.

## **FIELD METHODS**

The area examined consists of seven sections along public roads and one cross-country section. The field crew drove each of the seven sections along public roads and walked the overland route and looked for high probability areas on both sides of the roads. No high probability areas were observed along any of these areas as currently proposed. Since the exact placement of the water line in these areas is not known, the crew examined the route for high probability areas on either side of the road.

During the field survey the Project Archaeologist and Principal Investigator relied on topographic maps and engineering maps provided by the client. As each road or section of road was driven, the relevant topographic map was consulted for the presence of nearby streams. This was necessary since creeks were not always visible from the road. In some cases, for example, streams paralleled the water line route on the opposite side of the hill from the road. At the same time, the engineering maps were used to make notations regarding what was seen at that area. Each area driven was given a number that corresponds to field notes taken in a notebook. The probability of an area for prehistoric sites was written in the notebook for future reference. Comments such as "low-lying area" and "slope of hill" are the kinds of observations that prompted the survey crew to avoid shovel testing certain areas.



## **RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

A check of the site files and topographic maps at TARL revealed no previously recorded sites in or near the project area. This investigation covered 8.2 miles of right-of-way. No previously unrecorded prehistoric sites and no historic sites were found within the 15 foot right-of-way. The proposed water line will not affect any significant sites in or near the project area. The 1.5 acre site of the proposed hydro-pneumatic plant is also in a low probability area. Although it is on a hill, no streams or creeks or in the area. It is concluded that, although significant sites exist in the area, there is a valid reason for the lack of new sites in the project area. Generally, the route of the water line crosses few major creeks. Much of the project area is on slopes of hills, in low-lying areas, or flat stretches of land between streams.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

No new archaeological sites were found within the project area right-of-way. It is recommended that the Concord Robbins WSC be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. Area 1, the overland tract, was not flagged at the time of this survey. As long as the water line is placed in the low-lying floodplain BVRA recommends that no further work be conducted. If there is a possibility that it may pass through the uplands to the south, however, shovel testing is recommended. Should, however, cultural materials be encountered during construction in areas not discussed in this report all work should stop until the situation can be evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission in consultation with BVRA and Concord Robbins WSC.

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